
Review

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of the Bible. Authority is due to inspiration. "Its position rests on no external authority, on no sentence of council or synod or prophet or saint, but on a gradual choice by a Church guided by the Spirit of God." Fear of criticism is due only to false theories.

Part ii., the nucleus of the book, deals with "The Making of the Old Testament." There are two stages: "the formation of a religious literature and the selection or acceptance or recognition of certain parts of this literature as authoritative and inspired Scripture." "The Lost Library" is a most interesting chapter. The argument is always sound and convincing. The material is, of course, not new, but it is informed with the spirit of a born teacher. The following chapters deal with the growth of the Jewish Scriptures. The methods of oriental historians are shewn by printing selected passages of *Kings* and *Chronicles* in parallel columns. Thus the mind is prepared for the compilatory theory of the Pentateuch. The argument is strengthened by the comparison of an analysis of a passage of Tatian's *Diatessaron*. "The Completed Jewish Bible" is a fit conclusion to a well reasoned argument.

Part iii. gives a history and appreciation of the Apocrypha which should cause it to be read more widely.

Part iv. is a lucid and convincing history of the "Making of the New Testament."

Dr. Smyth says his work is an effort of constructive criticism to encourage "the thoughtful devout layman who is still puzzled and distressed." One feels that it is a successful effort, and hopes that many editions of the book will be demanded. Sunday School teachers and first year divinity students should find it invaluable.

The book is well printed and tastefully bound, but its value will be much increased if succeeding editions contain an index.

E. W. G.

THE FAITH OF THE OLD TESTAMENT. By Alex. Nairne.
"Layman's Library." (Longmans.) 2s. 6d. net.

Dr. Nairne has given us a volume which we hope will be widely studied. It is a most timely and valuable contribution to the study of the Old Testament. There are many who are repelled from the reading of the Bible because they have conceived ideas that the value of the book has been completely undermined by the results of modern criticism. It is not uncommon to meet men who put the Bible aside as being discredited, while their own knowledge of what the Bible is is very limited. Dr. Nairne avoids all technical language and elaborate analyses which make ordinary Introductions such very dry reading. He treats the Bible as a collection of noble literature, and points out the variety and the richness of its contents. In a luminous

introductory chapter he gives a rapid and yet comprehensive sketch of the development of the religion of the Jews, as shown in the growth of the Canon. He accepts the results of modern Deuteronomic Criticism, and gives a very plausible and interesting account of the revival of religion among the Jews. It is well to have the great abiding spiritual lessons clearly set forth in such a way as to show they do not depend on any critical theory of the early or late composition of the books. Dr. Nairne's expositions of the prophetic teaching is excellent, and no one who has read them can fail to have a clearer idea of the meaning of the writings which are usually left unread or are most grotesquely misinterpreted. The most valuable part of the book is that dealing with the literature that immediately leads up to the Christian Epoch, the Wisdom and the Apocryphal writings. Of late years these writings are being recognized more and more as necessary for the full understanding of the New Testament and its messages. The layman, for whom this volume is specially written, has not had much opportunity of learning about this movement in theological thought. This can no longer be said, for Dr. Nairne has given an excellent summary of the position. He is absolutely candid and fair in his treatment, and does not make any attempt to labour any particular theory. We are glad to welcome the Layman's Library, and if the succeeding volumes reach the standard of the first, it will be a very important addition to theological literature. The volume is attractively printed, and is wonderfully cheap.

E. J. Y.

MYSTICISM AND THE CREED. By W. F. Cobb, D.D.,
Rector of St. Ethelburga's in the City of London. (Macmillan.) 10s. 6d.

The ministry of Dr. Cobb at St. Ethelburga's, Bishopsgate, fills, in some respects, an unique position and has a peculiar value in the Church of England at the present day. Neither his message nor his preaching are ever likely to be widely popular in the more obvious meaning of the word, because comparatively few people at any age are deeply interested in the issues with which he is mainly concerned. Yet there will always be a minority to welcome eagerly helpful guidance on such questions as are dealt with in his work on *Mysticism and the Creed*. The more so because this guidance, embodying as it does the general outlines of his teaching, is not offered in a dogmatic or peremptory spirit, but as an appeal at once to the cultured intelligence and to the spiritual understanding. Dr. Cobb, indeed, grapples bravely with one of the deepest and most persistent problems of the religious life—How to reconcile the claims of external authority in matters of belief with that individual liberty which